

## Message Text

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ACTION ARA-07

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 AF-04 PM-03 SP-02 L-01 NSC-05  
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4264  
INFGURUTAOH/AMEMBASSY LUSAKA 44

C O N F I D E N T I A L GEORGETOWN 0424

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PFOR, GY  
SUBJECT: FOREIGN MINISTER COMMENTS ON US-GUYANESE DIALOGUE

SUMMARY: WILLS CALLED ME TO HIS OFFICE FEBRUARY 25 TO ASK ME TO MAKE CERTAIN THAT THE USG UNDERSTANDS THAT GUYANA DOES NOT LINK RESTORATION OF GOOD RELATIONS WITH THE US TO A US-CUBAN RECONCILIATION. HE FEARED THAT HIS HIGH COMMISSIONER IN LUSAKA HAD CONVEYED THAT IMPRESSION TO US OFFICIALS. ALSO WILLS WANTED TO MAKE CLEAR THAT HIS CHANNELS FOR COMMUNICATION TO THE USG ON BILATERAL MATTERS WERE ME AND HIS REPRESENTATIVES IN WASHINGTON. END SUMMARY.

1. WILLS' MAIN PURPOSE IN REQUESTING OUR MEETING FEBRUARY 25 WAS TO DISCUSS A DESPATCH HE HAD RECEIVED FROM GUYANESE HIGH COMMISSIONER GRANT IN LUSAKA. THE REPORT DESCRIBED IN DETAIL CONVERSATIONS GRANT HAD WITH MR. MOOSE, WHO WAS DESCRIBED AS A STAFF ASSISTANT OF UNDERSECRETARY HABIB, WHILE TRAVELING ON A PLANE OVER EAST AFRICA AND WITH AMBASSADOR STEPHEN LOW DURING A VISIT BY THE LATTER TO GRANT'S OFFICE. THE SUBJECTS COVERED WERE SOUTHERN AFRICAN AFFAIRS AND US RELATIONS WITH GUYANA AND THE CARIBBEAN NATIONS UNDER PREVIOUS AND PRESENT US ADMINIS-  
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TRATIONS. FROM BOTH CONVERSATIONS GRANT CONCLUDED THAT THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION PLANNED A MUCH MORE POSITIVE POLICY TOWARD THE CARIBBEAN AND GUYANA THAN ITS IMMEDIATE PREDECESSORS.

2. WILLS, HOWEVER, WAS CONCERNED ABOUT SEVERAL THINGS IN GRANT'S REPORT. FIRST, GRANT HAD TOLD ONE OF THE US

OFFICIALS THAT US RECONCILIATION WITH CUBA WOULD BE NECESSARY BEFORE GUYANA-US RELATIONS COULD IMPROVE SIGNIFICANTLY. WILLS SAID THAT THIS VIEW WAS A REMNANT OF THE THINKING THAT PREVAILED IN THE GOG LAST YEAR WHEN SUSPICIONS WERE STRONG THAT THE CIA WAS BACKING THE CUBAN EXILES. WILLS SAID HE WANTED TO MAKE CLEAR THAT THIS WAS NOT HIS GOVERNMENT'S VIEW OR POLICY NOW. PRESENT GOG POLICY WAS TO IMPROVE US-GUYANESE RELATIONS INDEPENDENT OF ANY CHANGE IN US POLICY TOWARD CUBA. AT THIS POINT, WILLS SAID BURNHAM HAD THIS WEEK EXPRESSED APPRECIATION TO WILLS FOR PERSUADING HIM THAT THEY SHOULD ADOPT A MORE POSITIVE POLICY TOWARD THE US.

3. WILLS ALSO SAID GRANT HAD ERRED IN GIVING THE IMPRESSION THAT GUYANESE LEADERS BELIEVED NEGOTIATION WAS NO LONGER POSSIBLE REGARDING RHODESIA. WILLS SAID THE GOG BELIEVES THAT ON THE "FIRST OPTION" OF KISSINGER'S PLAN SOME CHANCE STILL EXISTED FOR ACCOMMODATION.

4. ALSO, GRANT HAD CONCLUDED, FROM THE CIRCUMSTANCES OF AMBASSADOR LOW'S VISIT AND HIS BACKGROUND IN INTELLIGENCE (NSC), THAT THE USG WANTED TO OPEN A SPECIAL CHANNEL OF COMMUNICATION WITH THE GOG THROUGH GRANT. WILLS SAID HE SUSPECTED THAT GRANT WAS DRAWING UNWARRANTED CONCLUSIONS; NEVERTHELESS, HE WANTED TO MAKE CLEAR THAT HE DID NOT WANT TO BEGIN A DIALOGUE ON GUYANESE-US RELATIONS THROUGH LUSAKA. GRANT WAS OUT OF TOUCH WITH THE SITUATION IN GEORGETOWN AND THINGS WERE MOVING TOO RAPIDLY FOR HIM TO BE KEPT INFORMED. HE SAID HE WOULD INSTRUCT GRANT NOT TO CONFIDENTIAL

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DISCUSS GOG-US BILATERAL RELATIONS. (IN RESPONSE TO WILLS' QUERY, I EXPLAINED TO WILLS THAT LOW IS AN FSO AND THAT SERVICE ON THE NSC DOES NOT IMPLY A PERSON IS A CIA OFFICER.)

5. WILLS SAID HE WAS ALSO CONCERNED OVER A SUGGESTION FROM COMMONWEALTH SECRETARY GENERAL RAMPHAL THAT RASHLEIGH JACKSON AT THE UN SHOULD TRY TO REACH THE USG THROUGH AMBASSADOR ANDREW YOUNG. WILLS DID NOT LIKE THAT EITHER. JACKSON'S COMPETENCE WAS ON MULTIALTERAL ISSUES. HE HOPED THAT JACKSON AND YOUNG WOULD COMMUNICATE FREQUENTLY ON MULTILATERAL ISSUES, BUT HE WANTED TO CONDUCT BILATERAL RELATIONS THROUGH ME AND AMBASSADOR MANN AND HALER IN

WASHINGTON.

6. COMMENT: IT APPEARS THAT GUYANESE POLICY IS EVOLVING TOO RADLY FOR WILLS TO KEEP HIS DIPLOMATS INFORMED; OTHERWISE GRANT WOULD NOT HAVE MADE HIS GAFFE CONCERNING

CUBA. GRANT'S APPARENT OVERINTERPRETATION OF HIS CON-  
VERSATIONS IS A COMMON GUYANESE TENDENCY. THEY ASSUME THAT  
OTHERS ATTRIBUTE TO GUYANA THE SAME IMPORTANCE ON THE WORLD  
SCENE THAT THEY DO, AND ARE QUICK TO READ HIDDEN SIGNIFICANCE  
INTO SIMPLE ACTIONS AND GESTURES. WILLS' REACTION TO GRANT'S  
REPORT IS ALSO TYPICAL. HE OFTEN OBSCURES HIS REAL INTENT FROM  
HIS COLLEAGUES AND OTHERS, WHILE MANEUVERING BEHIND THE  
SCENES TO MOVE SITUATIONS TOWARD THE OBJECTIVE HE FAVORS.  
TOO MANY ACTORS WOULD FURTHER COMPLICATE MATTERS FOR  
HIM. END COMMENT.  
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Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
22 May 2009  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009